



Goucher College

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Higher Education

Member since August 2009

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP



Environmental Team

The Goucher Environmental Sustainability Advisory Council is an environmental advisory council consisting of students, faculty, and staff members. The council meets at least three times a semester and advises the president and administration on environmental issues and policies. The council also researches and explores solutions to environmental issues raised by members of the Goucher community and reports its findings to the president. It helps implement campus environmental programs and monitors the college's progress in fulfilling the requirements of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. For more information about the council, its members, and its most recent activities go to www.goucher.edu/green.



Environmental Policy Statement

Goucher has a sustainability component in its Strategic Plan, which states that "every student who enrolls at Goucher College will fulfill a requirement to explore the international, intercultural, and ecological dimensions of his or her education through intensive experiential learning programs in the local community, around the United States, and overseas." The component is available at <http://www.goucher.edu/x7710.xml>.

Additionally, the college's liberal education curriculum stipulates that students entering as of Fall 2007 are required to explore the ecological and/or policy dimensions of environmental sustainability through their coursework.



Annual Goals

Goucher contracted with Environmental Health and Engineering (EH&E), Inc., a Massachusetts-based environmental and engineering consulting firm, to complete a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, as required by the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. A draft of the Green

House Gas Report is being finalized. We estimate being able to submit it by Fall 2009. From that report we will develop an action plan to follow to fulfill the ACUPCC.



Environmentally Preferable Procurement

Goucher doesn't have a formal/written sustainable purchasing policy, but employees are encouraged to purchase "green" products. For example, when employees purchase their office supplies from Office Max, the default option is a link to recycled products. The Facilities Management Department has been purchasing green products for several years as their first choice. This unofficial policy is the same for many other departments on campus.

Also at this time, about 25 percent of the equipment that's on campus is Energy Star-rated. Moving forward, the college has a policy to use Energy Star equipment whenever available.

About 80 percent of the paper purchased by the college for use in various offices and departments campus-wide is Forest Stewardship Council certified. About 12 percent to 20 percent of paper purchased by the college (as opposed to individual offices) is made from recycled materials. Individual offices have the option of purchasing recycled paper. Also, 90 percent of our cleaning products are biorenewable or Green Seal-certified. We are researching and testing new products to fill in the other 10 percent.

WASTE



Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse

The Goucher Environmental Sustainability Advisory Council is examining the college's paper purchasing program and is making recommendations about more environmentally sustainable options. In the Spring 2006 semester, Goucher implemented a "Print Wisely" program to discourage wasteful printing, conserve environmental resources, and control printing costs to avoid passing these rising costs to students. Additionally, most student network printers are set up to print on both sides of a piece of paper.



Recycling

The college recycles aluminum, cardboard, glass, paper, plastics, and electronics, such as batteries, light bulbs (50-75 lbs a year), and printer cartridges. Goucher has partnered with an eCycler -- a vendor that buys back old equipment to be refurbished or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. The college

also has arrangements for recycling fluorescent tubes, motor oil, tires, paints, solvents, cleaning agents, computer parts, and metals. Also, Bon Appétit, Goucher's food management company, gives its kitchen grease to a local biodiesel fuel company for processing into biodiesel.

ENERGY



Energy Efficiency

Goucher has implemented the following programs and/or technologies to improve energy efficiency:

- 1. Campus-wide Siemens DDC energy management system.*
- 2. Central Chiller Plant 1 and 2 have had high-efficiency (.55 kw/ton) chillers with variable frequency drives installed.*
- 3. Variable-frequency drives have been installed on 150 motors and pumps.*
- 4. Temperature setbacks are scheduled daily campus-wide.*
- 5. Thermal ice storage system with 6,000 ton hour capacity has been installed at two central plants.*
- 6. Several solar street lights have been installed along campus walkways.*
- 7. Three-way valves on heating and cooling systems have been replaced with two-way valves for variable flow.*
- 8. Occupancy sensors in classrooms that turn off lights and set back the HVAC system have been installed.*
- 9. Domestic water heaters that are 82 percent efficient are being replaced with condensing models that are 95 percent efficient.*
- 10. Compact fluorescent bulbs are being used to replace incandescent wherever possible.*
- 11. T5 Bulbs 10 percent and T8 Bulbs 90 percent were installed campus-wide.*
- 12. Vending Miser occupancy sensors have been installed on vending machines campus-wide.*
- 13. High-efficiency motors are being installed campus-wide.*



Renewable Energy

Goucher College purchased renewable energy from Constellation NewEnergy in October 2008 to match a portion of its electricity usage at its campus and support the college's mission of environmental sustainability.

Constellation NewEnergy, a subsidiary of Constellation Energy, will supply Goucher with Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to match 25 percent of the college's projected electricity consumption for the next three years.

RECs are tradable environmental commodities in which one REC represents one megawatt-hour of electricity generated from an eligible renewable energy

source. The purchase of RECs may be used to offset greenhouse gas emissions and help support the operation and development of domestic sources of cleaner, renewable energy.

Goucher's RECs will come from wind energy sources certified by Green-e Energy, an independent verification program for renewable energy. Green-e Energy certifies that the energy that RECs represent comes from eligible supply sources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, or "low-impact" hydropower plants that have been built since 1997.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Equivalency Calculator, Goucher's REC purchase is the environmental equivalent to removing 1,111 cars from the road for a year or saving 688,328 gallons of gasoline.

TRANSPORTATION



Employee Commute

The college offers designated carpool parking. This summer a faculty member began a carpooling program that encourages faculty and staff to carpool to campus. Faculty and staff will be given access to an online message board to help them in their search for carpool partners. The money for the program came in the form of an Innovation Grant. Goucher College's innovation grant fund was created to sponsor new and imaginative campus projects to be implemented every academic year. The carpool program is too new to have calculable results yet.

GREEN BUILDING



LEED Silver

Goucher's 103,000-square-foot Athenaeum (completed in Summer 2009) is certified LEED Silver for New Construction. In support of Goucher College's Strategic Plan and as required in the signing of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, Goucher College will use the Green Building Council's LEED rating system when planning a new building or major renovation and will aim to achieve a minimum of a Silver rating.

OTHER



Bon Appétit Management Company, Goucher's food services provider, works with the college to help bring principles of environmental sustainability and social

responsibility to our dining halls. Bon Appétit is committed to supporting local farmers and food producers who provide organic fruits and vegetables, hormone-free dairy products, and free-range meats to Goucher's dining facilities. The company also has initiated the use of eco-friendly food containers on campus and has initiated a composting program, and it holds "low carbon diet" days as well as farmers' markets on campus.

Through the auspices of the Jane and Robert Meyerhoff Visiting Professorship, the college brings distinguished scholars, teachers, and practitioners to Goucher's campus twice a year to advance local and national dialogues on pressing issues of our time. Under the theme of environmentalism, the college has recently presented free public lectures by Thomas L. Friedman — the three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, New York Times columnist, and world-renowned author — and Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai, the Kenyan environmental and political activist who, in 2004, became the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.